(c) the reasons why the Government were in a hurry to make the appointment before the term of Mr. T. Pattabhiramayya actually expired; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Mr. W. O. Newsam wrote a demi-official letter to the then Law Member to expedite passing orders about his appointment?

A.—(a) 17th June 1928.

(b) & (c) The recommendations of the District Magistrate and the District and Sessions Judge, Ganjam, were submitted to Government on the 16th April 1928, as the District and Sessions Judge would be away when the office of Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor was to terminate, namely, during the recess of his Court which commenced on the 30th April 1928. The orders of Government thereon were passed on the 17th April 1928.

(d) No.

Forests

Appointment of a committee to enquire into the grievances of ryots in forest areas.

* 726 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government propose to appoint a committee to enquire into the grievances of the ryots in forest areas in accordance with the resolution passed in the Council on the 6th September 1928?

A.—The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to Legislative Council Question No. 559 on 12th October 1928. The matter is still under consideration.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether the appointment of the committee itself is under consideration or the terms of reference?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"The appointment of the committee itself is under consideration."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao:—"May I know how long it will be under consideration?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"I cannot say, Sir."

Railways

Schemes for the extension of railway communications by the South Arcot District Board.

* 727 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the District Board of South Arcot has any and if so, what interest in the profits, control and administration of the new railway line opened between Cuddalore and Vriddachalam; and

(b) whether the District Board of South Arcot had at any time put forth any scheme or schemes to extend the railway communications on its own responsibility within the district, and if so, what became of such schemes eventually?

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A.—(*a*) The District Board has agreed to guarantee the Railway Board against loss, if any, arising out of the construction and working of the line. The repayment to the District Board of the guarantee paid by it will be a first charge on any net profits that may be derived from the line should it prove remunerative. The District Board has no control over the line or its administration.

(*b*) Within the last 25 years, the District Board proposed the construction of the following lines out of its funds :—

(1) Cuddalore-Vriddhachalam.
(2) Ulundurpet to Chinnasalem *via* Kallakurichi.
(3) Extension of No. (2) to the district frontier.
(4) Cuddalore-Pondicherry.

Items (2) and (3) did not materialise.

Item (1) has been constructed by the Government of India.

Item (4) has been included in the Railway programme and will be constructed from Imperial funds.

Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddi :—" In regard to item (4) in clause (*b*), may I know when the line will be taken up for actual construction I mean the Cuddalore-Pondicherry line ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" It depends upon the railway programme. I cannot say."

Labour

Action taken on the recommendations of the Unemployment Committee.

*728 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Government to give effect to the recommendations of the Unemployment Committee ?

A.—The recommendations of the Unemployment Committee which relate mainly to educational reforms and the popularizing of agriculture as a means of livelihood are under the consideration of the departments concerned. Final decisions have not yet been made.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know when the Government will come to a decision in the matter ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" It is not possible for me to say at present."

Police

Alleged interference of the Police in the Calicut municipal elections.

*729 Q.—Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the complaints made by the nationalist as well as the moderate and loyalist papers in Calicut about the repeated and improper interference by the Police of Calicut in the municipal elections there ;